

To: Vendlinski, Tim[vendlinski.tim@epa.gov]
Cc: Ziegler, Sam[Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov]; Kemmerer, John[KEMMERER.JOHN@EPA.GOV];
Diamond, Jane[Diamond.Jane@epa.gov]; Gorke, Roger[Gorke.Roger@epa.gov]
From: Foresman, Erin
Sent: Thur 5/29/2014 6:27:07 PM
Subject: RE: SWRCB Panel Report (convened by the Delta Stewardship Council) re: Delta Outflows and other stressors

Hi Tim,

Glad you had a chance to take a look at the document and I agree, it is support for continued employment of the X2 approach to standards but also not to expect an improved X2 standard to restore the estuary on its own. Additional actions need to be taken to increase fish populations and restore beneficial use protection.

I interpreted the “modest changes” to X2 referred to in the fourth bullet as a reference to the USFWS Delta smelt BiOp that requires Fall X2. Fall X2 may appear modest because it requires Fall X2 in wet and above normal years only and it ranges from 74 (wet) – 81 (above normal) km which perhaps are not optimally protective X2 values, even for the fall. I will follow up and make sure I’m interpreting that section correctly. I don’t think it is referring to Phase I though.

Erin Foresman

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Schedule: M 8:30a - 5:00p; T - F 8:30a - 3:00p

From: Vendlinski, Tim
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 2:11 PM
To: Foresman, Erin
Cc: Ziegler, Sam; Kemmerer, John; Diamond, Jane; Gorke, Roger
Subject: SWRCB Panel Report (convened by the Delta Stewardship Council) re: Delta Outflows and other stressors

actively orient to these environmental cues.

- The Panel unanimously agrees that the distribution, condition, and abundance of some estuarine organisms are statistically associated with outflow and X2 because these two indicators are tied to underlying physical and ecological processes that more directly affect the estuarine organisms.
- There is very strong (even unequivocal) evidence that specifying outflow requirements and objectives specific to seasons (specific months) is a rational and scientifically justified approach.
- Expressing outflow (and X2) in terms relative to conditions in key habitat features, such as the LSZ, Suisun Marsh, and the intermittently flooded habitat at the intersection with the shoreline and with conditions in specific sub-embayments is helpful. In a sense, not only expressing X2 in kilometers, but also having several axes that show habitat volumes or areas and habitat types or features helps to provide context for flow or X2 objectives.

Here are the panel members:

Denise Reed - Water Institute of the Gulf (Panel Chair)

James (Tim) Hollibaugh - University of Georgia

Josh Korman - University of British Columbia/Ecometric Consulting

Ernst Peebles - University of South Florida

Kenneth Rose - Louisiana State University

Pete Smith - United States Geological Survey, retired

Paul Montagna - Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

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